

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET CUTBACKS

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today issued the following statement:

"Higher education in California has long been the foundation of our standing as a national and world economic leader. In a state that thrives on diversity and the many benefits it brings, higher education is the critical engine for social and economic justice.

"Cutbacks in this year's education budget will once again cause tuition and fees to rise next year. I know that there is no more important investment than the education of our students. If we keep chipping away at the funding, we will not only hurt our students, we will seriously harm the future of our economy.

"In recent years, we have seen our dedicated faculty struggle to negotiate compensation that not only is in line with their peers from other states, but truly reflects the tremendous benefit they bring to our students and this state.

"This week, a proposal has been floated that would cut the CSU and UC budgets, threatening the hard-earned contracts that the faculty at the state universities recently won. Although the state's budget is tight, cuts in funding for education are at best poorly conceived. Slashing the already inadequate budget for our universities is tantamount to a farmer eating - instead of planting - his seed corn. It is short-sighted and a sure path to failure.

"We must invest in the future, and the future in California is, and will continue to be, a world-class higher education system, which provides a first-class education for our students.

"As a California State University Trustee and a University of California Regent, I urge legislators and the Governor to support higher education and deliver the funding so critically needed to produce future innovators who will keep our economy strong."

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